

August 9, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUMNER TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS TO RECEIVE LETTER
EXPLAINING EXTENDED AREA SERVICE PROPOSAL**

LINCOLN – An explanatory letter and ballots on installation of extended area telephone service between Sumner and Kearney will be mailed to Sumner telephone customers of Frontier Communications, according to a tentative timetable approved August 3 by the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

The Commission acted on proposals from Frontier that called for a waiver from the requirement that a public meeting be held to explain extended area service that provides unlimited calling between exchanges for a standard monthly fee. Residents of Frontier's Sumner exchange petitioned the Commission earlier this year for extended area service with Kearney, which also is served by Frontier.

Frontier also successfully sought Commission approval to waive balloting by telephone subscribers in its Kearney exchange due to the minimal amount of the monthly additive. Frontier proposes a fee of three cents per month be added to the telephone bills of its Kearney customers to pay for the service and a fee of \$2.70 monthly on Sumner telephone bills.

Commission Chairman Jerry Vap of McCook, who represents both communities at the Commission said, "The letter will fully inform every subscriber of the advantages and disadvantages of an extended area service designation. If there are additional questions, subscribers may contact the Commission at 800-526-0017 or Frontier."

The Commission and Frontier will cooperatively develop a letter to Sumner telephone subscribers to answer questions about the extended area service proposal. The letter tentatively is to be mailed by August 16 with ballots to follow August 30. One ballot would be provided for each Sumner telephone account and the ballots would then be due at the Commission's office in Lincoln by October 4.

Frontier informed the Commission that extended area service could be implemented in Sumner by December 15 if the balloting is successful. Commission rules require a favorable vote by those participating in the balloting before it approves a plan for extended area service.

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